

January 12, 1984

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then you are voting to change the public policy of this state with regard to all children adopted after the effective date of this bill and you are saying henceforth we will move in a different direction and all parents who give their children out for adoption will know at that point in time that someday they may be contacted by their child. But with regard to those children that were adopted prior to this point in time, we are saying basically this, that the state made representations to those parents, to those mothers, and that the state has a duty and a moral obligation to uphold its representations and I really feel rather strongly that we would be a collective body of skunks and rats if we turned around at this point in time and said to all of those people we are not good for our word. This is democracy. We can change our mind any minute. I don't think that is the way democracy should operate and I would ask you to adopt the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the committee amendments? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Johnson, did you wish to explain the bill?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I know that we are anxious to adjourn. At this time I am not moving to adjourn. I will quickly explain the bill. I think it has been adequately discussed now on the floor. The bill with the amendment on it would do this. It would say that any adoptive child who reaches the age of 25 may apply to the county court of the county where the child was adopted and obtain the court records regarding the adoption. That means that the child will be able to ascertain the identity of the biological parents, and inasmuch as my attempt to amend out the protection of the existing adoptees